Balance between industry and farming

265. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industry-farming balance is essential;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this direction; and

(c) the priority to be given in future by the Government to balance the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) aims at achieving broad based inclusive growth which envisages an average annual growth of 4% in agriculture and 10% for industry. The plan also envisages shifting of surplus labour from agriculture to industry. The broad based growth during the Eleventh Plan is sought to be ensured by establishing a close link between industry and agriculture *inter-alia* through promotion of agro-processing and food processing industry, maximum value addition, elimination of post production losses, contract farming, liberal FDI regime for food processing industry and development of rural infrastructure.

Assistance to domestic textile sector

266. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an industry chamber has urged the Government to favour the domestic textile sector over imports as they had the capability to deliver world class military gear; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A number of measures have been taken which *inter-alia* include the following:-

(i) The machinery for manufacture of technical textiles including military gear has been placed under the concessional basic customs duty list of 5%.

(ii) Technical textiles including military gear has been covered under TUFS and are eligible for 5% interest reimbursement. Under the modified TUFS, the specified machinery for technical textile including military gear has also been made eligible for 10% capital subsidy in addition to 5% interest reimbursement.

(iii) Ministry of Textile has launched a Scheme for development and growth of Technical Textiles with the following components - (a) Setting up of four centres of Excellence in the fields to Geotech, Meditech, Agrotech and Protech (covers military gear), (b) creation of awareness; and (c) baseline survey of the industry.